Section 2. 2005 Project Field Evaluation Season

This section summarizes the 2005 field evaluations. More detailed discussions for five highlighted projects can be found in Section 3 (page 15), and a listing of those projects closed out in 2005 can be found in Section 4 (page 61). Summaries for all project evaluations can be found in the appendix, starting on page 63.

Introduction

DEQ currently oversees 51 active projects in Idaho (Figure 1, page 4). Each project is assigned a unique tracking number once funding is awarded. To assure projects are completed in a timely manner and achieve their goal of cleaning up and preventing NPS water pollution, all projects are subject to field evaluations by DEQ. DEQ's goal is to annually field evaluate the progress of approximately half of all current projects. This evaluation rate ensures that, over a two-year period, all on-going projects receive a field evaluation.

Field Evaluation Process

During the summer and fall of 2005, DEQ staff evaluated field work at 24 project sites across Idaho (Figure 2). Eighteen of the 24 field projects (75 percent) focused on a variety of BMPs for water quality protection related to agriculture. The remaining projects were related to hydrologic habitat modification, transportation, mining, logging, and urban storm water runoff.

DEQ generated a standard form for staff to use for field evaluations. For all projects, the DEQ inspector visiting the site carefully reviewed the project's subgrant agreement prior to going to the field. The evaluator routinely contacted appropriate DEQ regional staff to make arrangements to accompany the project manager, DEQ state office, and any other stakeholders to the field. In all cases, the evaluation form was used as a guide to assure that all NPS requirements were being checked for and met in the field.

Results

Of the 24 projects evaluated, all appear to be fully meeting their work plan obligations by demonstrating substantial progress toward completion of their designated tasks to reduce, eliminate, or prevent NPS water pollution. Fieldwork on one sub-project within a very large overall project had not been completed to acceptable standards (see Figure 148, of Project S111 and S149 Lower North Fork Clearwater Phase I and Phase II, Page 102). However, this situation has since been corrected following our September 20, 2005 visit to the project site.

Table 2 lists all the NPS active projects (denoted as *Subgrants* in the table) that were field evaluated during the summer and fall of 2005. Estimated load reductions are cumulative for projects that began in or after 2002; load reduction estimates were not required for projects that began prior to 2002.

Figure 2. Locations of 24 nonpoint source projects evaluated during 2005.

Table 2. Active nonpoint source projects that were field evaluated during the summer/fall of 2005.

Subgrant Number[a]	Project Name	Cumulative Estimated Load Reduction through 2005[b]	Comments	DEQ Region
QC606	Boulder and Willow Creeks at Cascade Reservoir	N/A	This project covers numerous shoreline stabilization sub-projects along upper Cascade Reservoir. This project was implemented prior to load reduction estimation requirements.	Boise
DEQ-internal	Glory Hole at Stibnite	S = 365	This project involves the removal and/or stabilization of historic mine dumps and tailings at a portion of the Stibnite Mine.	Boise
DEQ - Internal	Meadow Creek at Stibnite	S = 420	This project involves the stabilization of a very large historic mine tailings facility and the segregation of mine waste from Meadow Creek. Meadow Creek is an important fish habitat and tributary to the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. This project is combined with the "Glory Hole" project in the "Outstanding Projects" section of the 2005 annual report.	Boise
S018	Cub River Project	N/A	This project involves stream bank stabilization along a section of the Cub River. This project was implemented prior to load reduction estimation requirements.	Pocatello
S051	Medicine Lodge Creek	S = 1,860	This project involves implementation of intense stream bank stabilization BMPs along five segments of Medicine Lodge Creek and its tributaries.	Idaho Falls
S054	Lemhi River Watershed	S = 467 P = 890 N = 4,817	This project involves Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) relocations and stream restoration along tributaries to the Lemhi River.	Idaho Falls
S055 #2	Hailey Big Wood River	S = 3,018	This project is an extension of the original subgrant. The work plan was amended (added to) to allow the remaining funds in S055 to be used to remove an historic bridge abutment that was about to collapse into the Big Wood River. This would have caused considerable sedimentation to an excellent salmonid spawning area.	Twin Falls
S070	Upper Thomas Fork – John Carricaburu	S = 82,824 P = 17, 460 N = 34, 066	This project is one of a series of similar stream bank stabilization efforts in which the Bear Lake Regional Commission has conducted intense, well-engineered, and implemented BMPs that have stabilized over one mile of Thomas Fork along a southeastern Idaho valley containing highly erosive soils.	Pocatello
S074	Weiser Water Quality Protection	N/A (Educational)	The primary focus of this project is to demonstrate to agricultural producers the protection of ground water from nitrates and to initiate watershed-wide BMP implementation, which will be carried out through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Small Watershed Program, and the State Revolving Fund. A secondary benefit will be the protection of surface water from nutrients and sediment in addressing the two TMDLs being developed for the area.	Boise
S076 & S123	South Fork Palouse River Restoration, Phase I & II	S = 12,984 P = 19,721 N = 50,930	The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) has restored approximately 1,000 linear feet of the South Fork of the Palouse River (SFPR) in Latah County, Idaho. This cooperative restoration project involved private landowners, local students, community organizations and volunteers, and multiple resource agencies. The primary goal was to improve the water quality of this highly degraded river. The project effectively reduced sediments, nutrients, and temperature and addressed flow and habitat alteration. This project will help ensure compliance with the recently finalized TMDL for the SFPR.	Lewiston
S094	Camas Prairie Ground Water Nitrogen & Surface Water Sedimentation Education	S = 60,300 Load reduction estimates for nitrogen are not available at this time.	This project is designed to educate farmers in nutrient management and low-till farming techniques. Farmers are learning about the economic and environmental value of decreased fertilizer applications and management of fertilizer applications. This course of action decreases nutrient loadings—specifically nitrate and ammonia—to fields according to soil testing and crop utilization of nutrients. Nutrient Management programs and split applications of fertilizers have been shown in the "Ground Water Quality Evaluation Craigmont, Idaho" report to reduce the amount of nutrients that are leached through the soil to groundwater sources. Sediment reduction estimates are based on low-till farming education and implementation.	Lewiston

Subgrant Number[a]	Project Name	Cumulative Estimated Load Reduction through 2005[b]	Comments	DEQ Region
S098S	Lower Payette River TMDL Implementation Project	S = 2,146 P = 3,476 N = 7,278	The project area covers that portion of Gem County that is located within the Gem Soil and Water Conservation District. This area includes the Lower Payette River and its tributaries that are located west of Black Canyon Reservoir to the Gem/Payette County Line. Land uses in this area are a mixture of agricultural irrigated cropland, irrigated pastureland riparian areas, native rangeland, urban areas and the City of Emmett. The main goal of the project is to reduce contributing nonpoint sources of pollutants of concern that are being added to the Lower Payette River. These pollutants are identified as bacteria (*E.coli*), phosphorous, sediment, and pesticides. This project will assist in meeting the Lower Payette TMDL Implementation Plan goals of decreasing the nonpoint sources of pollutants by 30%. This project will be separated into two phases.	Boise
S099S	Cottonwood Creek TMDL Implementation Phase II	S = 23,782 P = 2,000 N = 600	The purpose of this project is to use a watershed approach to implement agricultural BMPs to reduce non-point source loading of TMDL-listed pollutants to Cottonwood Creek and the South Fork of Clearwater River. Special emphasis is placed on Stockney Creek. Loading reductions will be focused on sediment and associated nutrients and pathogens. Agricultural lands comprise approximately 91,788 acres (74%) of the Cottonwood Creek watershed. Agricultural activities in the watershed contribute approximately 85% of the sediment load to Cottonwood Creek. Agricultural lands in Stockney Creek cover 17,26I acres (86%) of the watershed.	Lewiston
S104	Boise River Side Channel Project	N/A	This project, located at Harris Ranch in east Boise, is intended to improve water quality in the Boise River. The Boise River is a §303(d) water quality limited segment affected by nonpoint source activities, which have affected flow alteration, sedimentation, temperature, and dissolved oxygen. The project deals with temperature reduction by reestablishing a functioning riparian corridor. It will also restore spawning and rearing habitat for salmonid fishes with construction of a one mile long side channel adjacent to the Boise River. The project will provide fish passage from the Boise River to an area known as Barber Pool. This project is restoring connectivity between Barber Pool and the Boise River, which have been disconnected for nearly a century.	Boise
S105	Cow Creek Water Quality Improvement	S = 10,000 P = 3,950 N = 1,270	Cow Creek is on the State of Idaho's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The listed water quality parameters of concern include habitat alteration, nutrients, and temperature. Cow Creek is listed from the headwaters to the Washington State line. BMPs being implemented include continuous direct seeding, erosion and sediment control structures, riparian restoration and reforestation. In addition to BMP implementation, the project is augmented by a watershed-scale monitoring program initiated by DEQ in 2002. Public outreach to landowners and local growers will be undertaken to enhance the transferability of these BMPs to other landowners and growers in the area and throughout the region.	Lewiston
S106	Potlatch Water Quality Improvement	S = 12,800 P = 4,000 N = 1,300	Potlatch River and select tributaries are on the State of Idaho's 1998 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The listed water quality parameters of concern include temperature, channel stability, sediment, bacteria, flow alteration, habitat alteration, and nutrients. The Potlatch River TMDL was recently completed. BMPs include continuous direct seeding and erosion and sediment control structures. In addition to BMP implementation, the project will continue with the watershed-scale monitoring program initiated by DEQ in 2002. Public outreach to landowners and local growers will be undertaken to enhance the transferability of these BMPs to other landowners and growers in the area and throughout the region.	Lewiston
S107	Ashton Ground Water Protection Project	N = 114,441	This project deals with ground water protection education and application of associated BMPs in numerous areas around and near the city of Ashton.	Idaho Falls
S108	Thomas Fork – Widmer	S = 40.8 P = 646 N = 1,122	This project is one of a series of projects developed and implemented by the Bear Lake Regional Commission (BLRC). Similar to previous BLRC projects along Thomas Fork, this project is effectively reducing the amount of total suspended solids (TSS) and nutrients entering the Thomas Fork River, the Bear River, and Bear Lake. This project will result in numerous improvements. Other benefits include reduced temperature of the water via shading and overall improvements to aquatic habitat conditions	Pocatello

Subgrant Number[a]	Project Name	Cumulative Estimated Load Reduction through 2005[b]	Comments	DEQ Region
S111 and S149	Lower North Fork Clearwater Phase I and Phase II	Phase I S = 553.4 Phase II S = TBA	Phase II is a seamless continuation of work completed under Phase I. Therefore, this evaluation covers work conducted under both subgrant agreements. This project is quite large. The Clearwater River watershed is approximately the size of the State of Rhode Island.	Lewiston
S119	Weiser Flat/Hog Creek Wetlands Project	S = 15,374 N = 20,500	The Hog Creek watershed is approximately 16,000 acres and includes about 16 percent of the total watershed of Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) #17050201. This project will capture sediment and nutrients from Hog Creek prior to deposition to the Snake River. In addition to the normal intermittent flow of Hog Creek, the northernmost branch of the Galloway Canal dumps excess irrigation water and return flows from irrigation into Hog Creek, just upstream of the newly constructed wetland area. Sediment levels are high, although generally not exceeding the target level of 50 mg/L.	Boise
S125	East Perrine Coulee Wetland	S = 6,150 P = 23,652	In this project, the Snake River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), along with the Twin Falls Canal Company, used section 319 funding to help purchase a conservation easement from a private land owner to construct a large sediment pond and wetland area. SWCD purchased the property and the Twin Falls Canal Company constructed the facility. The property, to be held in a perpetual trust, is located upstream from the City of Twin Falls. The sediment pond and wetland are resulting in a significant reduction in sediment and, therefore, have a significant impact on water quality through the City of Twin Falls and, subsequently, to the Mid-Snake River. The City of Twin Falls may participate in the maintenance of the facility.	Twin Falls
S127	Rock Creek Small Acreage Demonstration	N/A (Educational)	The Rock Creek drainage in Twin Falls County has many small acreage properties that may be raising a limited number of livestock. These sites are sometimes constructed in environmentally sensitive areas near the canyon rim of Rock Creek or adjacent to wetland areas. The Rock Creek drainage lies in the number two-rated Twin Falls nitrate priority area and within the drinking water source water delineation for the City of Twin Falls. Rock Creek is a 303 (d) listed stream for nutrient and sediment and is identified in the Mid Snake Resource Plan. This project is education, so load reduction estimates are not calculated at this time.	Twin Falls
S132	Barber Park Green Roof Demonstration	N/A (Educational)	The objective of this project is to approach nonpoint source pollution "upstream" at the source, taking a highly cost effective approach, considered a "site level solution." The project proposes to design and construct a "living roof' for a single office/commercial building with a roof area of about 5,800 square feet The living roof will be integrated into the building, either through initial design as new development or through retrofit of a redeveloped site. The living roof project offers a demonstration of high performance building technology for preventing nonpoint source pollution through design integration. A living roof is a best management practice, ideal for a park setting with a serious educational program in place.	Boise
S143	South Fork Palouse River Upper Watershed- Robertson Park	S = 1,508 P = 2,040 N = 4,200	This project is at the site of a former constructed reservoir. Over the years, sediment built up behind the dam until the reservoir became dysfunctional. Some years ago, the dam was breached, and the creek began down-cutting through the reservoir sediments. The area that used to be a reservoir was converted into a recreational park. However, erosion continued to result in many tons per year of sediment deposition to the South Fork of the Palouse River. This project will stabilize the affected stream banks while enhancing recreational value and preventing further erosion at Robertson Park.	Lewiston

a More than one subgrant agreement number for a project indicates that additional funding was later granted for additional tasks.

b S = sediment expressed in tons
P = phosphorus expressed in pounds
N = nitrogen expressed in pounds

c Total for both projects.

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